

**Haydock  
Urban District Council**

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**Annual Report**  
**of the**  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
**1949.**

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GOLBORNE PRINTING CO. LTD.,  
Heath Street, Golborne.



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# **HAYDOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL** **1949**

*Chairman of the Council :*  
Councillor C. HARRISON, J.P.  
(Deceased 23rd April, 1950)

*Vice-Chairman of the Council :*  
Councillor W. TICKLE

*Clerk of the Council :*  
C. LEDGER, F.C.C.S.

*Engineer and Surveyor :*  
R. MAIN, A.I.A.S.

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE :**

*Chairman :*  
Councillor J. PARR

*Vice-Chairman :*  
Councillor Mrs. S. PIMBLETT

*Members :*  
Councillor G. AARON  
Councillor J. CAUNCE  
Councillor H. CORCORAN  
Councillor R. FINNEY  
Councillor W. FOSTER  
Councillor C. HARRISON (*deceased*)  
Councillor W. HAYES  
Councillor H. HUNT  
Councillor A. LLOYD  
Councillor W. TICKLE

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT :**

*Medical Officer of Health :*  
A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.  
(Commenced duties 1st February, 1949)

*Sanitary Inspector :*  
R. V. WATKIN, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,  
Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspector (R.S.I.)  
(Commenced duties 1st February, 1949)

**To the Chairman and Members of the Haydock U.D.C.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Report on the health conditions of the Urban District for the year 1949, a year which has seen the progressive consolidation and fulfilment of schemes engendered by the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the National Assistance Act, 1948, both of which became operative on the "Appointed Day," 5th July, 1948. As stated in my report for the previous year, changes in administrative responsibilities proceeded smoothly, and have since continued to do so : the last major amendment being the assumption by the County Council of full responsibility for the Ambulance Service on 1st February, 1949. Thus only one of the major provisions of the Health Service Act which prescribe the Local Health Authorities' duties now remains unfulfilled, i.e., the provision and administration of Health Centres, but the implementation of this plan must necessarily remain in abeyance pending an improvement in the national and international political and economic situations, and a more ready supply of labour and building materials.

As regards the vital statistics for the year, both the Live Birth Rate and the Crude Death Rate have shewn a slight increase over the corresponding figures for 1948, but in the case of the Birth Rate this year's figure of 18.9 Live Births per 1000 population is lower by 2.2 than the figure of 21.1, the quinquennial mean for the five previous years 1944-48. The death rates from Respiratory Tuberculosis, and from Cancer, are both lower for the current year (0.34 and 1.09 respectively) than for the previous year (0.5 and 1.43) and for the previous quinquennium (0.43 and 1.30). It is also very pleasant to be able to report a continued fall in the Infant Mortality Rate, which this year stands at 36 per 1000 live births, as against figures of 38 and 47 for the previous year and the mean for the previous quinquennium respectively. Finally, no maternal deaths associated with child birth occurred.

So far as infectious disease is concerned, the total figure of 131 confirmed notifications has almost constituted a low record : last year the figure was 530, and the quinquennial mean for the last five years was 361. This very considerable drop in incidence is attributable to a marked decline this year in cases of measles (32 cases as compared with 354 in 1948) and of Whooping Cough (57 cases as compared with 108 in 1948). Diphtheria notifications confirmed were 2 in number—neither were fatal. No cases of puerperal fever, of puerperal pyrexia or of ophthalmia neonatorum were recorded.

The principal matters on which improvements are desirable in the interests of the public health are those of housing, the paving of back

streets, sewage disposal, and pollution of streams and natural water courses. The first is, of course, as much a national as a local problem, and a gradual amelioration of the position is the most that can be expected : the second need not be a problem of great magnitude : the third is linked with the sewerage plans and problems of neighbouring authorities, which plans are being implemented slowly ; and the fourth, pollution of watercourses, is of course essentially a corollary of drainage and sewerage difficulties and imperfections.

The year 1949 was the first full calendar year during which the changes brought about by the National Health Service Act have been in operation, and I have therefore thought it relevant to report as concisely as I may on those ancillary Health Services of the County Council—the “ Local Health Authority ”—which are available to the public of this Urban District. Without any doubt these services must have an important and beneficial influence on the health of the community.

Whilst there are no grounds for complacency, there are three features which I think must engender some feeling of satisfaction. They are :—firstly, the continued steady downward trend in the Infant Mortality Rate ; secondly, the relatively high proportion (70%) of children under 15 years of age who have been protected against Diphtheria ; thirdly, that out of the 199 infants surviving from the 207 born in 1948, 119 received primary vaccination, of which 113 were successful—a proportion of infant vaccinations to live births exceeding one half. The greatest efforts will be required to maintain, and to improve, these standards.

I would like to take this opportunity of recording my deep appreciation of the help so readily afforded by all members of the Council, and by my colleagues on its staff, especially of course those engaged with me in the work of Public Health, the Sanitary Inspector, the Engineer and Surveyor, and Clerical Staff. Finally, I may not properly omit to record here my deep personal gratitude and indebtedness to the Ex-Chairman of the Council, the late County Councillor C. Harrison, J.P., who had always at heart and in mind the health and welfare of the people of Haydock.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. C. CRAWFORD

*Medical Officer of Health*



## SECTION 1

## GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres) ....	2,395
Population (Census 1931) ....	10,352
Population (Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1949) ....	11,920
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) ....	2,029
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1949, according to Rate Books ....	2,920
Rateable Value ....	£45,201
Sum represented by 1d. rate ....	£187

The Township of Haydock extends from St. Helens C.B. in the West to the Urban District of Golborne in the East, a distance of approximately  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles. It is bounded on the North side by the Urban District of Ashton-in-Makerfield and on the South side by the Urban District of Newton-le-Willows.

The district is without any marked undulations of surface, the height above mean sea-level varying from 65 feet at the bottom of West End Road to 200 feet at the top of Millfield Lane.

The sub-soil consists of clay and marl with occasional beds of sand. Surface water gravitates via the various brooks and streams in the district to Sankey Brook.

The occupations of the working population are principally coal mining, and engineering in connection with the Collieries.

## SECTION 2

## VITAL STATISTICS

## Summary

## Live Births

Legitimate—116 Male, 99 Female	.....	Total	215
Illegitimate—5 Male, 5 Female	.....	Total	10
Total Live Births	.....		225
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	.....		18.9

## Stillbirths

3 Male, 2 Female	.....	Total	5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	.....		22

## Deaths

76 Male, 45 Female	.....	Total	121
Death rate per 1,000 population	.....		10.2

Maternal Mortality..... Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age ..... 8

Rate per 1,000 live births ..... 36

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..... Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..... 13

**Population :** At the Census in 1931 the population enumerated was 10,352. The Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1949 was 11,920 and this figure has been used in calculations of statistics in this report.

**Births :** During the year there were registered 225 births, being 121 males and 104 females, to Haydock parents, representing a birth rate of 18.9 per 1,000 of the population ; the birth rate for England and Wales was 16.7.

There were 5 stillbirths giving a rate per thousand (live and still) births of 22.

**Deaths :** The total number of deaths of Haydock residents whether within or without the district was 121, comprising 76 males and 45 females. The death-rate for 1949 was therefore 10.2 per 1,000 of the population as compared with a death-rate of 11.7 per 1,000 of England and Wales as a whole.

It will be noticed that the increase of births over deaths for Haydock during the year was 104.

**Infant Mortality :** Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 8, giving a rate per 1,000 live births of 36. The rate for England and Wales was 32.

There were no deaths from Measles (all ages), Whooping Cough (all ages) or Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

**Maternal Mortality :** There were no deaths from Maternal causes during the year.

**Comparability of Crude Death Rates :** If the populations of all areas were similarly constituted as regards the proportions of their sex and age group components, their crude death rates (deaths per 1,000 population) could be accepted as valid for purposes of comparison with other areas and with the country as a whole.

As the populations of the areas are not thus similarly constituted the Registrar-General supplies a "comparability factor" to each area by which the crude death rate of the area should be multiplied.

The factor supplied to this area is 1.22 and the adjusted death-rate therefore becomes 12.4.

**Comparisons of Births, Deaths etc.:** The tables on the following four pages give comparisons of the Births, Deaths, etc., for the year 1949 and the preceding 5 years; also the causes of death in the Haydock Urban District for the year 1949.

**BIRTHS**

Year	Haydock		England and Wales
	Total Births	Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000
1944	235	21.9	17.6
1945	211	19.3	16.1
1946	251	22.1	19.1
1947	282	24.4	20.5
1948	207	17.4	17.9
1949	225	18.9	16.7

**DEATHS**

Year	Haydock		England and Wales
	Total Deaths	Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000
1944	104	9.6	11.6
1945	119	10.9	11.4
1946	89	7.8	11.5
1947	123	10.6	12.0
1948	111	9.3	10.8
1949	121	10.2	11.7

**DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE**

Year	Haydock		England and Wales
	Total deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Rate per 1,000 live births
1944	11	46	46
1945	12	56	46
1946	12	47	43
1947	13	46	41
1948	8	38	34
1949	8	36	32

HAYDOCK U.D. Population— For Birth-rate } 11920 For Death-rate }	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death rate from Resp. T.B.	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total births	
Mean of 5 years, 1944-1948	21.1	9.7	0.43	1.30	4.22	4.11	47
Year—							
1948	17.4	9.3	0.50	1.43	Nil	Nil	38
1949	18.9	*10.2	0.34	1.09	Nil	Nil	36
Increase or decrease in 1949 on 5 years' average 1944-1948	— 2.2	+0.5	—0.09	—0.21	—4.22	—4.11	—11
Previous year	+1.5	+0.9	—0.16	—0.34	Nil	Nil	— 2

\*1949 adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.22) = 12.4 per 1,000

**COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF  
MORTALITY, AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1949**

	Haydock Urban District	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident population 25000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London adminis- trative County
<b>Births—</b>	<b>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</b>				
Live Births .....	18·9	16·7	18·7	18·0	18·5
Still Births .....	0·42	0·39	0·47	0·40	0·37
<b>Deaths—</b>					
All Causes .....	10·2	11·7	12·5	11·6	12·2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid .....	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough .....	0·00	0·01	0·02	0·01	0·01
Diphtheria .....	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis .....	0·34	0·45	0·52	0·42	0·52
Influenza .....	0·08	0·15	0·15	0·14	0·11
Smallpox .....	0·00	0·00	0·00	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis .....	0·00	0·01	0·02	0·02	0·01
Pneumonia .....	0·42	0·51	0·56	0·49	0·59
Notifications (corrected)					
Typhoid Fever .....	0·00	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Para-typhoid fever .....	0·08	0·01	0·02	0·01	0·01
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	0·08	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·02
Scarlet Fever .....	2·01	1·63	1·72	1·83	1·46
Whooping cough .....	4·28	2·39	2·44	2·39	1·70
Diphtheria .....	0·17	0·04	0·05	0·04	0·07
Erysipelas .....	0·50	0·19	0·20	0·19	0·17
Smallpox .....	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Measles .....	2·68	8·95	8·91	9·18	8·54
Pneumonia .....	1·09	0·80	0·91	0·65	0·55
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0·00	0·13	0·13	0·12	0·18
Acute Polio-encephalitis .....	0·08	0·01	0·01	0·02	0·01
Food Poisoning .....	0·00	0·14	0·16	0·14	0·19
<b>Deaths—</b>	<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</b>				
All causes under 1 year of age .....	36	32	37	30	29
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age .....	0·00	3·0	3·8	2·4	1·7
Notifications (corrected) .....	<b>Rates per 1,000 Live and Still Births</b>				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia .....	0·00	6·31	8·14	5·30	6·82
<b>Maternal Mortality—</b>	<b>Haydock</b>		<b>England and Wales</b>		
Abortion with Sepsis .....	0·00		0·11		
Abortion without Sepsis .....	0·00		0·05		
Puerperal infections .....	0·00		0·11		
Other Maternal causes .....	0·00		0·71		

## CAUSES OF DEATH—HAYDOCK U.D.C. 1949

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
All causes .....	76	45	121
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .....	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system .....	3	1	4
Tuberculosis—Other forms .....	—	—	—
Syphilis .....	—	1	1
Influenza .....	1	—	1
Measles .....	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis .....	—	—	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis .....	—	—	—
Cancer—All forms .....	11	2	13
Diabetes .....	—	2	2
Intra-Cran : Vasc : lesions .....	5	3	8
Heart Disease .....	33	19	52
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	1	1	2
Bronchitis .....	3	3	6
Pneumonia .....	2	3	5
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	—	—	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) .....	—	—	—
Appendicitis .....	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases .....	—	2	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	1	1	2
Puerperal Sepsis .....	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes .....	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ....	3	1	4
Suicide .....	1	1	2
Road Traffic Act .....	1	—	1
Other Violence .....	2	—	2
All Other Causes .....	6	4	10



### SECTION 3

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

##### Water Supply

The district is supplied with water from the Rivington reservoirs belonging to the Liverpool Corporation.

The Haydock reservoir situated at the top of Millfield Lane has a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons, equal to approximately 5 days normal consumption.

The total consumption for the year was 86,038,793 gallons, or 20.86 gallons per head per day for all purposes.

The total estimated consumption for trade purposes was 12,059,000 gallons, or 2.61 gallons per head per day so that 18.25 gallons per head per day was used for domestic purposes.

The reservoir is emptied and cleansed periodically.

With the exception of one out-lying farm, all houses in the area are connected to the public water mains and the supply has been satisfactory in regard to both quality and quantity.

Two samples of the water were submitted for bacteriological analysis and found to be satisfactory.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

##### Milk

With the coming into force, on the 1st October, 1949, of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the registration of dairy farms and dairy farmers, and the enforcement of the regulations on dairy farms (except in so far as they relate to diseases communicable to man), became the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Local authorities retain responsibility for those provisions which apply outside dairy farms, for the provisions relating to diseases communicable to man, and for the registration of distributors of milk and of dairies which are not dairy farms.

At the 30th September, 1949, the number of cowkeepers on the register was 13 and periodical visits of inspection to their premises numbered 30.

Generally premises were well-maintained and milking carried out under clean conditions.



At the end of the year 17 persons had been registered as distributors of milk under the new regulations and one premise registered as a dairy (not being a dairy farm).

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1948, 5 supplementary licences relating to the sale of tuberculin tested milk and 5 relating to the sale of pasteurised milk were issued by the local authority.

Samples of milk were taken periodically from all milk producers and retailers in the area and tested by the Public Health Laboratory Service for the presence of the tubercle bacillus.

It is satisfactory to record that of the 32 samples tested all were found to be free from tuberculous infection.

### Meat and Other Foods

There are no slaughter-houses in operation in the area. Four persons are licenced by the local authority to slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. The licences are valid for a period of three years and during the year under review no licences were issued or renewed.

67 pigs were slaughtered on behalf of pig-keepers in the district for their own consumption. All were inspected after slaughter and found to be fit for human consumption.

All food shops and premises were inspected regularly.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed :—

Meat	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4 tins
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5 tins
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	60-lbs.
Milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	78 tins
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15 tins
Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13 tins
Sugar	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 cwt., 4-lbs.
Butter	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6-ozs.
Margarine	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4-ozs.
Cheese	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5-lbs.
Lard	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13-lbs.

No case of food poisoning was notified.

Five shops were registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, for the sale of ice-cream. In each case a refrigerator is installed in the shop and the ice-cream is sold wrapped as delivered to the shop.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the district.

The local authority is not a Food and Drugs Authority and sampling of food (under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938), for adulteration etc., is carried out by the County Council inspectors.

### **Rivers and Streams**

Some pollution of the streams running through the district occurs from the Sewage Works and the tip. The extent of pollution is kept under observation and the streams cleansed when necessary.

### **Drainage and Sewerage**

With the exception of a few out-lying premises all property is drained and sewered by gravitation to 4 sewage disposal works.

Sewage disposal is effected by means of settlement and filtration and is carried out under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor.

Having regard to the fact that the disposal works were constructed in the days of dry conservancy, and consequently now tend to become overloaded, the standard of effluent is reasonable.

Pollution, to some extent, of the brooks to which the effluent is discharged is unavoidable under the circumstances, and it is to be anticipated that new schemes of sewage disposal now envisaged will take effect in the not too distant future.

### **Sanitary Accommodation (Houses and Schools)**

The numbers of the various types of conservancy measures in the district at the end of 1949 are as follows :—

Privy Middens	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Pail Closets	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Trough Closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 (school)
Waste-water Closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Fresh Water Closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2913
Dry Ashpits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Ashbins	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	2913

During 1949 two privy middens were converted to fresh water closets.

All the schools in the district, with the exception of one where insanitary trough closets are still in use, have reasonably satisfactory sanitary accommodation.

All schools are connected to the public mains for water supply and to the public sewers for sewage disposal.

At six of the schools washing and drinking facilities are inadequate.

## Public Cleansing and Salvage

The collection of refuse is carried out under the control of the Council's Surveyor. Two motor vehicles are in operation and all dustbins are emptied weekly. Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping ; paper, cardboard etc., is collected separately, baled at the Council's Depot and sold as salvage.

## Rodent Control

Although infestations of rats and mice in the district are generally of a minor nature, the sewers, sewage works and refuse tip are subject to constant observation and regular treatments according to the methods recommended by the Ministry of Food Infestation Division.

In addition to the annual 10% test of all the sewers in the area and to two treatments of infested portions of the sewers, the numbers of infestations found and treated were as follows :—

Dwelling Houses	.....	15
Sewage Works	.....	5
Refuse Tip	.....	3

## Disinfestation

Infestations of houses with insect pests were dealt with by the use of insecticide containing D.D.T. and/or Gammexane dust, with good results.

The main source of infestation in the area is the refuse tip and this was treated twice with tip dressing to reduce the incidence of crickets, cockroaches and flies.

The number and types of infestations of houses dealt with during the year are as follows :—

Ants.....	9 houses
Bugs	1 house
Cockroaches	29 houses
Crickets	7 houses
Flies.....	12 houses
Wood Beetles	1 house

## Offensive Trades

Premises established as offensive trades at the end of 1949 were :—

Fish-friers	10
Tripe-dressers	2

Periodical inspections showed that these premises are clean and well maintained.

## SECTION 4

### HOUSING

At the end of 1949, according to the Rate books, the total number of houses in the area was 2,920.

More than half of this number are of the two-bedroom type, the majority of the remainder having three bedrooms.

During 1949, 46 traditional permanent houses were erected by the local authority and one by private enterprise.

40 houses are in process of building on the Church Road site and a further 30 are contemplated during the coming year.

The number of dwellings in the district which are overcrowded, though not accurately known, constitutes a problem for which there appears to be no immediate solution. It is estimated that the main causes of the overcrowding are the increase of families by natural growth and members of families getting married and continuing to live at home.

Efforts to secure adequate repairs to older houses are impeded by shortage of labour and materials and the high cost of repairs compared with existing low rentals.

#### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	559
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	1089
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	2
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	445

#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers .....	267
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#### 3. Action under Statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 .....	Nil
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## (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	9
(b) by local authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil

## SECTION 5

## Industrial and Commercial Hygiene

Two new factories were added to the register during the year, bringing the total number registered to 16.

This figure comprises 6 factories in which mechanical power is used and 10 without mechanical power.

The types of factory are :—

Engineering	4
Bakehouses	6
Brick-making	1
Boot and Shoe Repairs	3
Joinery	1
Pre-cast concrete goods	1

29 visits of inspection were made during the year.

Defects found and remedied were as follows :—

Want of cleanliness	2
Inadequate ventilation	1
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences	1

Conditions generally were good and in no case was it found necessary to resort to written notice.

No references were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

## SECTION 6

### Infectious Diseases—Prevention and Control

131 cases of infectious disease were notified as compared with 530 during 1948. The main reason for the decrease is the fall in the number of cases of measles notified from 354 in 1948 to 32 in 1949, and of whooping cough from 108 to 51. There was one case of cerebro-spinal fever.

#### Diphtheria

4 cases of diphtheria were notified but on further diagnosis at the infectious diseases hospital, 2 of these cases proved to be tonsillitis. Of the two confirmed cases, neither patient had been immunised.

#### Scarlet Fever

The number of cases notified, 24, is the lowest since 1941, and compares with the figure of 44 for 1949. Cases were generally of a mild nature, and there were no fatalities.

#### Measles and Whooping Cough

The incidence of measles was mainly confined to the first quarter of the year and that of whooping cough to the second and third quarters. 3 cases only (of whooping cough,) were treated in hospital, and all patients recovered.

#### Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis

One case of acute polio-encephalitis was notified. This occurred in a child who was visiting Haydock from a district in Yorkshire which was affected by an outbreak of poliomyelitis at the time. The case proved fatal.

#### Isolation and Disinfection

The Infectious Diseases Hospital at Peasley Cross, St. Helens, is available for the treatment of Haydock cases.

37 cases were treated during 1949 and all recovered.

The use of the steam disinfectant at the hospital is also available for the disinfection of bedding and clothing if and when required.

In all cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever disinfection of rooms, bedding and other articles is effected by means of Formic Aldehyde fumigation after the removal of the patient to hospital, or, if nursed at home, when the patient is certified free from infection.



# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1949

EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS, NOTIFICATIONS IN RESPECT OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES NUMBERED 131. THE SUB-JOINED TABLE GIVES THE CORRECTED FIGURES AND THE NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL. THERE WERE TWO DEATHS, ONE OCCURRING IN A PERSON ORDINARILY RESIDENT OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

Disease	Total cases at	Cases Notified Age Periods—Years									Total Deaths	Total cases removed to hospital
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever    ...    ...    ...	24	—	1	7	12	1	2	1	—	—	—	24
Diphtheria    ...    ...    ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Paratyphoid Fever    ...    ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles    ...    ...    ...	32	3	18	8	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough    ...    ...	51	8	19	17	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	13	—	2	1	—	1	1	5	1	2	1	3
Cerebro-spinal fever    ...    ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Polio-encephalitis    ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas    ...    ...    ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	2
TOTALS    ...    ...    ...	131	12	41	33	21	5	4	8	4	3	2	37

### Tuberculosis

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, 13 new cases of respiratory and other forms of tuberculosis were notified. There were 4 deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 .....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 .....	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
45 .....	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 .....	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	7	3	1	2	3	1	—	—
	10		3		4		—	



## SECTION 7

## SANITARY INSPECTION

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, VISITS, Etc.

Dwelling-houses (under Public Health and Housing Acts)....	559
Re-inspections and re-visits to above ....	530
Housing conditions and overcrowding....	14
Water supply (inspections and re-inspections) ....	167
Drainage (inspections and re-inspections) ....	154
Conversions of Privy-middens (inspections and re-inspections)....	12
Ditches and Water Courses (inspections and re-inspections) ....	15
Accumulations of refuse ....	6
Piggeries and keeping of animals ...	10
Tents, vans and sheds ...	2
Schools ....	7
Cinemas ...	1
Offensive Trades ...	12
Rodent Control ....	30
Disinfestation of dwelling houses ....	46
Infectious disease enquiries and disinfections ....	42
Cowsheds, Dairies, etc. ....	62
Food shops and premises ....	96
Other Shops ....	107
Ice-cream premises....	6
Factories ....	26
Interviews with Owners and Contractors ....	29
Pigs inspected after slaughter ....	67
Milk samples ...	32
Water samples ....	2
Miscellaneous ....	21
Total ....	<hr/> 2055 <hr/>

Number of Nuisances or Defects discovered ....	776
Number of Informal Notices served ....	346
Number of Statutory Notices served ....	34
Number of Notices complied with at end of 1949 ....	205
Number of Nuisances or defects abated at end of 1949 ....	517
Legal Proceedings ...	Nil

## ANALYSIS OF DEFECTS

Type of Defect	No discovered	No remedied
Water Closets ....	56	28
Drains ....	45	45
Water Supply ....	47	26
Sinks ....	9	5
Waste Pipes ....	26	22
Dustbins ....	155	126
Washboilers ...	10	6
Roofs ....	49	30
Chimneys and Flues ....	8	4
Eavesgutters ....	69	20
Downspouts ....	29	17
Brickwork and/or Pointing ....	11	6
Plastering ....	43	23
Floors ....	14	5
Windows ....	63	35
Doors ....	10	6
Firegrates ....	15	9
Dampness ....	27	21
Yard Paving ....	4	4
Miscellaneous ....	86	79
Total ....	776	517

## SECTION 8

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY  
SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

## (1) Laboratory Arrangements

**(Public Health Laboratory Service, and County Analyst's  
Department)**

Pathological specimens, samples of milk, foodstuffs, "swabs," etc., for bacteriological investigation are dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service either at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, or at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Green, Monsall, Manchester. The chemical analysis of water samples, and of samples of food and drugs, is undertaken at the County Analyst's Department, County Offices, Preston.

## (2) Hospital Arrangements

**(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, St. Helens and District  
Hospital Management Committee, and Warrington  
and District Hospital Management Committee).**

The Haydock Cottage Hospital is the only hospital situated in the district ; it is a General Hospital with a nominal establishment of 13 beds, but in view of its small size it is not equipped to deal with major surgical cases. The district is mainly served, for general cases, by the St. Helens Hospital, and also by the Providence Hospital, St. Helens. Maternity cases requiring hospital treatment are admitted either to the County Hospital, Whiston, the St. Helens Maternity and Welfare Hospital, the General Hospital, Warrington, or to the Warrington Maternity Home, Victoria Park, Latchford, Warrington. Cases requiring isolation on account of Infectious Disease are normally admitted to the Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital, St. Helens.

In addition to the above, cases requiring highly specialised treatment for pediatric, orthopaedic, ophthalmic, ear, nose, throat and gynaecological disabilities may be admitted, by arrangement, to any of the 'teaching hospitals' attached to the Universities of Liverpool or Manchester, and situated within, or in close proximity to those cities.

## (3) Ambulance Arrangements

Full responsibility for the Ambulance Service (provided under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946) was assumed by the Larcheside County Council—the "Local Health Authority"—as from 1st February, 1949, and the Urban District is serviced by staff and vehicles maintained at the County Ambulance Station, Gas Street, Earlestown, Telephone No. Newton-le-Willows 3134.

This Service deals with all types of case where such transport is required by reason of illness (including mental illness), or mental defectiveness, whether accident or emergency, general illness or infectious disease. In cases of emergency any person having reason to do so may summon an ambulance : in other cases the calls for this service are made either by a doctor, dentist, midwife, nurse or other duly qualified person.

Three Stretcher-carrying ambulance vehicles and two " Sitting case " cars are stationed at the Newton-le-Willows Depot, manned by an appropriate staff, all qualified in First Aid. During 1949 the following numbers of calls were dealt with from this district :—

Emergency 238, General 532, Infectious 39. Total 809.

#### (4) Treatment Centres and Clinics

- (i) **School Health**—School Clinic, Station Road, Haydock.  
Assistant Divisional Medical Officer, Dr. Paterson.  
School Nurse/Health Visitor, Miss S. N. Hodgson.

##### **Sessions " Minor Ailments " and Medical Inspection.**

Doctors Sessions : Weekly—Tuesday a.m. during School term.

Nurses Re-Dressing Sessions : Weekly—Friday a.m. during School term.

#### **Ophthalmic**

Ophthalmic Surgeon—Mr. E. Allan.

Health Nurse in Charge—Miss Hodgson.

Sessions : Fortnightly—Thursday a.m. (by appointment only)

#### **Orthopaedic**

Orthopaedic Surgeon—Mr. Almond.

Orthopaedic Physiotherapist—Miss Graham.

Sessions : Surgeon's sessions—monthly, morning of the first Monday (by appointment only).

Physiotherapist—Weekly (by appointment only).

#### **Dental**

Dental Surgeon—Mr. A. E. Shaw.

Dental Attendant—Miss Entwistle.

Sessions : By appointment only, but the Dental Surgeon has always been very willing to deal with urgent cases for the relief of pain, if he is in attendance at the Clinic.

- (ii) **Ante-Natal Clinic** (Held at the School Clinic, Station Road, Haydock).

Obstetrician—Dr. Marshall.

Health Visitor in Charge—Miss Hodgson.

Sessions : Fortnightly—alternate Tuesday afternoons.

These sessions are attended whenever possible by the local County Midwives, who assist at the examination of their patients. Where hospital confinement is advisable, either on obstetrical or sociological grounds, the necessary arrangements are made for admission.

During the current year a total of 87 expectant mothers made 277 attendances.

(iii) **Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic** (Held at the School Clinic, Station Road, Haydock).

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer—Dr. Paterson.

Health Visitor in Charge—Miss Hodgson.

Sessions : Weekly—each Wednesday morning.

The purpose of these Clinics is to facilitate the medical examination and general supervision of infants and small children up to the age of 5 years, and to advise the mothers regarding their nurture and welfare. As an ancillary service, in order to help the parent to implement the advice received regarding feeding methods, a number of artificial infant foods, and of vitamin preparations etc., are available to those regularly attending, at cost price. In addition, expectant mothers who attend with infants or other young children are advised regarding the maintenance of their general health, and on other problems connected with their pregnancy : and are of course referred for special obstetrical advice to the Ante-Natal Clinic.

The following figures show the use made of the Child Welfare Clinic during the year :—

No. of individual children in attendance			No. of attendances
Age under 1 year	....	231	2,258
Age 1 to 2 years	....	25	138
Age 2 to 4 years	....	17	56

(5) **Midwifery Arrangements**

Two whole time salaried Midwives are employed by the County Council—the “ Local Health Authority ” and “ Local Supervising Authority ”—for the purpose of conducting domiciliary confinements, either as midwives, (when assuming sole responsibility for the delivery, etc.), or as maternity-nurses, (when assisting at delivery in conjunction with the Doctor). Each midwife possesses a car, in order to enable her to respond speedily to urgent calls, and to transport analgesia apparatus.

The names and addresses of these midwives are : Mrs. E. Bramhall, 103, Kenyons Lane, Haydock. Telephone Ashton-in-Makerfield 7396. Mrs. E. J. Pye, 57, Kenyons Lane, Haydock. Telephone Ashton-in-Makerfield 7376.

No private midwife practises within the district, nor is there any private Maternity Home so situated. These ladies were therefore responsible, either as midwives or maternity-nurses, for the 122 domiciliary confinements which took place during the year. The fact that there were no cases of puerperal pyrexia or puerperal fever, and no "maternal deaths" associated with childbirth, is surely a high tribute to the skill and care bestowed on these mothers.

#### **(6) Health Visiting Arrangements.**

This work has in Haydock been carried out for many years by one Health Visitor, who combines with her Health Visiting duties those of School Nurse. The scope of her work has been considerably increased by the responsibility which now rests on Health Visitors to advise on general health matters relating to the family as a whole, and not solely in relation to infants, young children, and school children. Furthermore she has a specific responsibility in relation to advice on immunisation against Diphtheria.

These domiciliary visits, so necessary as regards not only supervision, but also health education, are of course complementary so far as pre-school children are concerned with the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre.

The name of the School Nurse/Health Visitor for the District is Miss S. H. Hodgson, with whom contact may be established at the School Clinic, Station Road, Haydock.

#### **(7) Mental Health Arrangements**

The District is covered for this purpose by the Authorised Officer of the Local Health Authority attached to No. 10 Health Division, assisted by a lady mental welfare worker. These workers deal with all aspects of mental health, including cases for which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Lunacy Acts, Mental Deficiency Acts and the Mental Treatment Act.

The names and addresses of these officers are :

Mr. P. D. Parker,	No. 10 Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory, Winwick, Nr. Warrington.
Miss M. Hargan,	ditto.

#### **(8) Home Helps Arrangements**

This is a permissive service provided by the County Council through its Divisional Health Scheme, (No. 10 Divisional Health Committee), and is one which is not necessarily provided free of cost to the public. It aims to provide domestic help where required by reason of the presence in a household of sickness, pregnancy, maternity, young children or a mentally defective person. This service has been used during the present year to a moderate degree only, probably because the public, not having full knowledge of the recently instituted scheme, have yet to experience its full benefits.



The "Home Helps" engaged are all part-time workers, none are full time, nor do any receive a "retaining fee." The Home Help Organiser and Welfare Worker, responsible for the day to day operation of the scheme in this District, is Miss D. Wilson, No. 10 Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory, Winwick, near Warrington.

**(9) Home Nursing Arrangements**

Nursing help in the home, formerly provided by the District Nursing Associations, is now afforded by the Local Health Authority, the former District Nurse being transferred to the service of that Authority, and continuing her beneficent work in the homes of the sick. The public demand for this onerous work has grown considerably during the year, and the assistance of a part-time relief nurse has been required from time to time.

The "Home Nurse" for the District is :—

Miss V. M. Dunn, 99, Central Drive, Haydock.

**(10) Arrangements for the Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care of Sick persons (including those suffering from Tuberculosis) and the provision of convalescent accommodation**

Responsibility for the above rests with the Local Health Authority, partly an obligatory, and partly on a permissive basis, 'illness' also includes mental defectiveness. The scope of such arrangements is very wide, and includes all the methods of "Health Education" and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, including those of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, the provision of ancillary nursing equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness, whether at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation measures where these are required to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor for the District is Miss Webster. She maintains supervision of patients in their homes, and arranges for their examination, re-examination, and for that of "contacts," (including X-ray investigation), at the Chest Clinic, (formerly the Tuberculosis Dispensary), at St. Helens, which is a branch of the principal Chest Clinic for the area situated at Waterloo, Liverpool, and is administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

As regards Health Education—a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness—it is pertinent here to emphasise that although some responsibility for this side of preventive medicine may be accepted, (as is the case), by the County Council as Local Health Authority, the permissive powers of the Urban District Council, (as a Local Sanitary Authority), to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, are still

extant, and should in my view continue to be exercised, particularly in respect of the dissemination of information relating to the spread of infectious diseases.

### **(11) Vaccination and Immunisation Arrangements**

Vaccination, and immunisation against Diphtheria, are available to all who desire it, either through the family doctor, who carries it out as part of his duties to his patients, or by attendance at one of the Immunisation Sessions held at approximately monthly intervals at the School Clinic, Station Road, where the work is carried out either by one of the local doctors, or by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

Whilst the immunisation position shows no grounds for complacency, the situation as regards the "immunisation state" of children under 15 years of age is more satisfactory than in most areas: on 31st December, 1949, the proportion was 70.1% as compared with 57.45% for No. 10 Health Division as a whole. Unfortunately the vaccination state is not so satisfactory as one could wish, although here again this Urban District is securing a higher proportion of infant vaccinations than is the majority of County Districts. If one deducts from the 207 births notified in 1948 the 8 infant deaths recorded in 1949, out of the 199 survivors, 119 were vaccinated, 113 successfully; a proportion of slightly less than 60%.

### **(12) The Children Act, 1948**

This Act became effective on 5th July, 1948, and 1949 has therefore been the first full calendar year of its operation.

In the main it provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of this Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Children's Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day to day operation of the Service, which is carried out on a regional area basis.

The Haydock Urban District lies administratively within the purview of the Area Children's Officer of the Wigan Area, who is assisted by Children's Social Workers, the latter being responsible for all matters relating to "deprived" children, e.g. the provision of accommodation, the inspection of and report on prospective foster homes, infant life protection, supervision of adopted children during the probationary period, the care and conveyance to suitable places of safety of children committed by the Courts to the care of the Authority as a "fit person," under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, and so on.



The Area Children's Officers and their visitors work in close co-operation with the Divisional Medical Officers and their staffs, and I am happy to say that in this district (included in No. 10 Health Division) the relationship is most effective and cordial.

The Wigan Area Children's Officer is :—

Mr. W. J. Payne, 41, Ince Green Lane, Higher Ince, Wigan.  
and the Children's Visitor for the Urban District is :—

Miss J. W. Cole, 41, Ince Green Lane, Higher Ince, Wigan.

### (13) **National Assistance Acts, 1948**

The year 1949 has also been the first full calendar year during which the above Act has been in operation. So far as this Urban District is concerned the Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of the Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case, is also on the divisional basis. The main provisions of Part III relate to accommodation for the disabled and aged, to temporary accommodation for persons who, by virtue of circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, are without lodging, and to welfare services in general, for persons handicapped by infirmities such as Blindness, Deafness, Dumbness, Crippling physical defects and other disabilities.

The approved scheme of the County Council in regard to welfare utilises very fully the services rendered by the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation.

Section 50 of the Act is of importance in that it places on this County District Authority the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority

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